



# NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

[www.sbcounty.gov/Biane](http://www.sbcounty.gov/Biane)

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For more information, contact  
Matt Brown, Second District Chief of Staff  
(909) 387-4833

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## **Supervisor Biane's illegal immigrant screening proposal moves forward**

**San Bernardino** - Per the request of Supervisor Paul Biane, the Sheriff's Department presented a program at today's Board of Supervisors meeting to identify inmates in violation of federal immigration laws in San Bernardino County jails.

As many as 20% of all the criminals that end up in the county jail system are illegal immigrants. A conservative estimate of the costs to county taxpayers to house these inmates is nearly \$12 million annually. Supervisor Biane has committed to aggressively pursuing reimbursement from the federal government on behalf of local taxpayers. The overall program will be developed to identify illegal immigrant inmates and once a ruling is given on each case, these inmates would then be turned over to the federal government for deportation. The Sheriff's Department will play a vital role in carrying out this program through the addition of 9 full time civilian employees to be trained by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency to conduct the investigations.

"People who come here illegally and commit crimes need to be prosecuted, do their time and be returned to their country of origin," said Supervisor Biane. "This program has to do with identifying and prosecuting criminals and has nothing to do with racial profiling."

The recent actions of Governor Richardson of New Mexico and Governor Napolitano of Arizona in declaring states of emergency at both their borders speaks to how serious the illegal immigration problem has become. It is the intent of the San Bernardino County program to reduce recidivism rates, associated costs and increase public safety.

“My motivation is partly financial. The more accurately we identify undocumented immigrant inmates, the more accountable the federal government will be in the cost of prosecuting and housing these criminals,” stated Supervisor Biane. “It’s a win-win situation for the public and both local and federal government.”